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1 students; and

2 WHEREAS, more and more students with severe chronic
3 illnesses or developmental disabilities are attending schools;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, almost seven percent of public school districts
6 do not have a registered nurse on staff; and

7 WHEREAS, the ratio of school nurse to students varies from
8 a low of one to four hundred eighty-eight to a high of one to
9 two thousand one hundred fifty, and forty-five percent of
10 school districts do not meet the national standard of one nurse
11 to every seven hundred fifty students; and

12 WHEREAS, in sixty-nine percent of school districts, there
13 are fewer than one registered nurse for every two schools; and

14 WHEREAS, New Mexico experiences a high teen pregnancy
15 rate, youth drug use, the highest level of youth poverty in the
16 country and a high rate of uninsured children; and

17 WHEREAS, poor health of students contributes to
18 absenteeism and academic failure, and, historically, reducing
19 absenteeism and improving student health have been the most
20 important reasons for school nursing services; and

21 WHEREAS, the House Joint Memorial 3 task force that met in
22 2001 and 2002 identified several broad system-level issues that
23 could not be answered without further study;

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
25 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the department of health and the

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1 public education department be requested to create a task force
2 to study the appropriate use and staffing of nurses in the
3 public schools; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested to
5 answer the following questions, which were left unanswered by
6 the earlier task force:

7 A. what constitutes adequate nursing supervision of
8 ancillary staff;

9 B. what is the appropriate level of nursing
10 presence in New Mexico schools;

11 C. how do the health and educational systems become
12 better integrated across all New Mexico school systems; and

13 D. how do school nurses interface with other health
14 care providers and services within the school systems; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force look at these
16 issues in the context of different geographical needs, economic
17 disparity, cultural differences and funding; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be made up of
19 representatives of the department of health, the public
20 education department, school districts, the school nurses
21 association, school administrators, an education-health
22 assistant organization, the New Mexico pediatric society,
23 parents' groups and other appropriate advocacy groups; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force report its
25 findings to the legislative education study committee and the

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1 legislative health and human services committee by October
2 2005; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
4 transmitted to the secretary of health and the secretary of
5 public education.

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